



# WASHOE COUNTY

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Risk Mgt   
HR   
Other

## STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: March 22, 2016

**DATE:** March 7, 2016  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, Washoe County Health District  
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John Listinsky, Director, Human Resources and Labor Relations  
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**THROUGH:** John Slaughter, County Manager  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve updated Washoe County Smoking Policy and possible discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board with recommendations on restriction of smoking and vaping to designated areas on Washoe County properties.

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### SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve updated Washoe County Smoking Policy and possible discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board with recommendations on restriction of smoking and vaping to designated areas on Washoe County properties.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

### PREVIOUS ACTION

The Washoe County Smoking Policy was implemented on or about October 1, 2002. Since that time, "smoking" has expanded to include "vaping" and other tobacco delivery devices. Previously at the December 11, 2001 Board of County Commission meeting there was discussion about designated smoking areas and prohibiting smoking within 25 feet of entrances or exits at Washoe County buildings and courts. Based upon staff research it does not appear that this discussion was revisited at a future meeting.

AGENDA ITEM # 9

## **BACKGROUND**

The Washoe County Smoking Policy was implemented on or about October 1, 2002. Since that time, “smoking” has expanded to include “vaping”. Smoking refers to the use of traditional tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes and hookahs. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems or electronic smoking devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs and e-cigars.

In a joint effort between Washoe County and the Washoe County Health District, the current smoking policy has been updated to reflect the modern interpretation of smoking. This item also recognizes the Health District’s efforts to encourage smoking cessation programs and its recent “Kick Butts Day” proclamation to empower youth and others to speak up and take action to help prevent youth tobacco use.

In addition to staff’s recommendation to approve the updated Washoe County Smoking Policy, staff is requesting discussion and possible direction to return to the Board of County Commissioners with a plan to restrict smoking and vaping to designated areas on Washoe County properties. Some examples of direction staff is seeking may include adding signage to Washoe County properties designating smoking or vaping areas; or identifying a specific distance away from entrances and exits wherein smoking or vaping may be prohibited.

The policy is attached for the Board’s reference.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve Recommendation to approve updated Washoe County Smoking Policy and possible discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board with recommendations on restriction of smoking and vaping to designated areas on Washoe County properties.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with Staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to approve Recommendation to approve updated Washoe County Smoking Policy and possible discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board with recommendations on restriction of smoking and vaping to designated areas on Washoe County properties.

**Current Washoe County Smoking Policy - Dated October 2, 2002**

“Smoking is prohibited in all Washoe County owned and/or operated (leased) buildings and in all Washoe County owned vehicles and equipment.”

**Proposed Smoking Policy**

To protect and enhance air quality and contribute to the health and well-being of all employees and visitors, Washoe County shall be entirely smoke free and vape free. This policy is effective immediately.

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in all Washoe County owned, leased or operated buildings and in all Washoe County owned vehicles and equipment.

Smoking refers to the use of traditional tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes and hookahs. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems or electronic smoking devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs and e-cigars.